

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 AID-05 EB-08
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0263

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: UNDP, EAID, VN

SUBJECT: UN MEETINGS ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM

REF: STATE 72703

1. SUMMARY: VIETNAMESE DELEGATION HEADED BY VICE-MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (VO DONG GIANG) PARTICIPATED DURING WEEK OF MARCH 20 IN A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH REPS OF UN AGENCIES AND MEMBER STATES, CAPPED OFF BY DAY-LONG MEETING ON 23 MARCH HELD IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HALL WHICH WAS OPENED BY SYG WALDHEIM AND ATTENDED BY ABOUT FORTY GOVERNMENTS AND VARIOUS UN AGENCIES. PURPOSE OF 23 MARCH MEETING, AS STATED BY UN COORDINATOR UMBRICH, WAS TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND ASSURE COORDINATION AMONG ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN VIETNAMESE RECONSTRUCTION. IT WAS "NOT TO BE A PLEDGING CONFERENCE IN THE TRADITIONAL SENSE." ON 22 MARCH, THERE WAS A CLOSED MEETING BETWEEN VIETNAMESE DEL AND REPS OF UN AGENCIES ASSISTING VIETNAM. IN ADDITION, THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION MET SEPARATELY WITH THE MAJOR UN AGENCIES, SUCH AS UNFPA AND UNDP, WHICH ON 21 MARCH SIGNED THE "STANDARD BASIC AGREEMENT" WITH VIETNAM INCORPORATING

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THE RULES AND PROCEDURES TO GOVERN UNDP'S ACTIVITIES THERE (UN PRESS RELEASE POUCHED TO IO/UNP, TATU). END SUMMARY.

2. THE 22 MARCH MEETING INCLUDED A PRESENTATION BY REPS OF SEVENTEEN UN AGENCIES AND CONCLUDED WITH EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION FROM THE VIETNAMESE VICE-MINISTER. FROM MAY 1975 THROUGH 1977, UN AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS HAVE PROVIDED

ABOUT \$183 MILLION IN AID TO VIETNAM. SINCE DECEMBER, 1977, UNDP HAS APPROVED TWO PROJECTS WORTH \$22 MILLION, THE WORLD BANK ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR A \$110 MILLION LOAN FOR IRRIGATION, THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, WHICH CONDUCTS ITS LARGEST COUNTRY PROGRAM IN VIETNAM (\$59 MILLION), IS PREPARING THREE PROJECTS WORTH \$35 MILLION, AND UNFPA IS PRESENTING A \$17 MILLION PROGRAM FOR UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL APPROVAL THIS JUNE. THE UNICEF FUND FOR VIETNAM HAS RISEN TO \$75 MILLION SINCE 1973.

3. THE SYG'S OPENING STATEMENT AT 23 MARCH MEETING WAS VERY BRIEF, EMPHASIZED VIETNAM'S ASSISTANCE NEEDS "TO COMPLETE THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE COUNTRY", AND UNDERLINED THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL UMBRICKT MISSION TO VIETNAM IN DECEMBER 1977 (COPY AVAILABLE IN IO/UNP). SYG'S STATEMENT WAS FOLLOWED BY UMBRICKT'S PRESENTATION OF VIETNAM'S PRIORITY NEEDS (FOOD IS KEY SECTOR) AND THEN BY THE VICE-MINISTER, WHO INTER ALIA STATED THAT, WITH REGARD TO THE UNITED STATES, "VIETNAM IS ALWAYS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE AN ADEQUATE SETTLEMENT OF THE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS, SO AS TO NORMALIZE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." (A DETAILED UN PRESS RELEASE ON THE MEETING BEING POUCHED TO TATU.)

4. BRADFORD MORSE, ADMINISTRATOR OF UNDP, NOTED THAT UNDP HAD APPROVED OR WAS CONSIDERING SEVERAL PROJECTS IN VARIOUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AREAS, I.E., AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, BUILDING RECONSTRUCTION AND WATER RESOURCES. HE CALLED ON DONORS TO JOIN IN FINANCING BANKABLE FEASIBILITY STUDIES TO DEVELOP INDUSTRY.

5. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WORLD BANK SAID THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL SHORTLY BE CONSIDERING THE ABOVE-MENTIONED \$110 MILLION LOAN FOR AN IRRIGATION SYSTEM WHICH WOULD INCREASE RICE PRODUCTION. THEY ARE ALSO CONSIDERING ASSISTANCE TO RECONSTRUCT THE RAILWAY NEAR HO CHI MINH CITY.

6. FAO HAS SENT SEVERAL MISSIONS TO VIETNAM AND AS A RESULT AN FAO REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE ASSIGNED TO HANOI AND A FORESTRY PROJECT WILL SOON BE APPROVED. FAO IS ALSO EXECUTING FOUR IMPORTANT PROJECTS FOR UNDP, TOTAL VALUE OF WHICH IS \$4 MILLION. PROJECTS EMPHASIZE FOOD PRODUCTION AND GENERAL AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT.

7. WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME REP STRESSED WFP'S FOOD FOR WORK ACTIVITIES AND SAID THEY WERE REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR \$35 MILLION IN PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE NUTRITIONAL STATUS.

8. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES ADDRESSED THE 23 MARCH MEETING: SRI LANKA, ROMANIA, GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, MALAYSIA, THE SOVIET UNION, JAPAN, POLAND, HUNGARY, BELGIUM, MONGOLIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, SWEDEN, THE HOLY SEE, BYELORUSSIA, SWITZERLAND, LAOS, FRANCE, ITALY, BULGARIA, YUGOSLAVIA, FINLAND, EQUITORIAL GUINEA, BURMA, CANADA, UK, ALGERIA, NEPAL AND AUSTRALIA.

A. GENERAL THRUST OF DELEGATION COMMENTS WAS EXPRESSION

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OF SUPPORT FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF VIETNAM. NO SPECIFIC PLEDGES WERE MADE. A FEW SOVIET BLOC DELEGATIONS (PARTICULARLY CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BULGARIA AND GDR) IMPLIED THAT U.S. WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESTRUCTION IN VIETNAM AND SHOULD THEREFORE, AID IN RECONSTRUCTION.

B. MALAYSIAN REP SAID HIS GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED THE NON-ALIGNED SOLIDARITY FUND FOR ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM AND THAT MALAYSIA WAS ASSISTING THE VIETNAMESE RUBBER INDUSTRY WITH BILATERAL AID.

C. GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC BILATERAL AID INCLUDES 75 MILLION MARKS FOR, INTER ALIA, PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS, INDUSTRY RECONSTRUCTION AND TRAINING.

D. USSR SAID IT HAD SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH SRV IN 1975 AND WAS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, INDUSTRY, ENERGY AND MINING.

E. BELGIAN REP SAID INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST HAVE

RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF VIETNAM NOT ONLY IN WORDS BUT IN DEEDS. BELGIUM WAS PROVIDING 140 BELGIAN FRANCS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, SCHOLARSHIPS IN VARIOUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SCIENTIFIC FIELDS, AND FOOD WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF A TEN-YEAR AGREEMENT.

F. MONGOLIA PROVIDING 100 MILLION TUGHRIKS IN BILATERAL AID.

G. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE NOTED A LONG ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDSHIP WITH VIETNAM. FRANCE, HE SAID, RESPONDED QUICKLY TO THE CALL FOR ASSISTANCE AND WAS THE SECOND LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR TO THE RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT.

H. SWEDEN SUPPORTS LARGE-SCALE ASSISTANCE FOR VIETNAM AND HAS PROVIDED \$60 MILLION IN BILATERAL AID.

I. CANADA NOTED ITS RECENT APPROVAL OF 22,000 MT OF WHEAT FLOUR (WORTH \$5 MILLION) AND CIDA'S \$1.3 MILLION PROGRAM FOR TRANSPORT. IT IS STUDYING UMBRICKT REPORT TO SEE WHAT FURTHER "HUMANITARIAN AID" MIGHT BE GIVEN.

J. UK SAID THAT MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT IS CAREFULLY REVIEWING THE UN REPORT.

K. AUSTRALIA NOTED THAT IT IS CONDUCTING A \$7 MILLION AID PROGRAM IN VIETNAM AND WILL READ UN REPORT CLOSELY.

L. NETHERLANDS REPORTED THAT ITS BILATERAL AID IN 1976/77 TOTALLED \$40 MILLION.

M. CONCLUDING REMARKS BY VICE-MINISTER VO DON GIANG AND UN COORDINATOR UMBRICKT WERE BRIEF, COMPLIMENTARY TO THE PARTICIPANTS, AND POSITIVE REGARDING PROSPECTS FOR AID. UMBRICKT PLAYED FUTURE UN COORDINATING ROLE IN LOW KEY AND EMPHASIZED THAT GVN ITSELF IS THE KEY AGENCY FOR CONTACTS

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WITH DONORS. HE SAID UN WOULD DRAW UP A WORKING PAPER ON VIETNAMESE NEED FOR SOFT LOANS AND WOULD CALL PERIODIC MEETINGS OF DONOR COUNTRIES AND UN AGENCIES. LEONARD

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